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CUBA

Cuba is quite as interesting a topic to the United States as South Africa has been and is to Great Britain. From both a geographical and ethical standpoint, the island belongs to this country. Therefore, it is gratifying that, ignoring certain opportunities, the American nation has kept to the spirit and letter of its moral contract, and conferred the right of self-government upon the insular nation. Many could not have withstood the temptation to acquire additional territory and additional commercial advantages.

It must be acknowledged, however, that the opinion brought from Cuba by ex-Secretary Carlisle is interesting. He says that the better elements in the island are convinced that annexation is almost inevitable. Not that republican government must necessarily be a failure, but irresistible events will eventually make the island a part of the Republic.

And it must be admitted that the Cubans have nothing to lose by coalition with the United States. Undoubtedly this would settle many vexing questions that are now international. The growing happiness of Porto Rico is an object lesson of American protection that cannot be ignored by the earnest people of the island of Cuba. Independence as a part of the United States is quite as beneficent and liberal, we believe, as under the administration of an infant republic. Cuba will probably come into the Union naturally and without a great deal of friction.

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THE UNPLACED WOMAN

ONE of the bothersome problems of the day is what to do with the middle-aged woman who has nobody to take care of her and never has been trained to take care of herself. There has never been a time when there were so few places for just this type of person. Yet, as everybody says, there ought to be a place for her somewhere, a place in which just such a woman is needed. The trouble is to find "the shirtless backs to put into the shirts."

A woman of this type, in hunting employment some time ago, had an experience which is about the usual experience of such workers. First, she tried to find a place as working housekeeper, but the family which offered her the position wanted somebody who could do part of the washing, and she was not strong enough. There was a chance to take care of an invalid, but the employer demanded a trained nurse. A small child needed personal supervision, but the applicant had not the "scientific training" demanded, and though she had experience she could not qualify for this seemingly simple duty. In another family a nursery governess was wanted, but on investigation it was found that the governess must be able to teach French and German. For ordinary housemaid's work she was too old. And so it went.

Is it not possible that in this case, and many others, the fault lies with the employers? Is it really necessary for children to be taught French and German in the nursery, or to be trained in the method dictated by Froebel? Are the qualifications of a trained nurse absolutely needed for the care of an ordinary invalid? Is it not possible for a woman of good character, gentle disposition, industrious habits, and average intelligence to fill any one of these places and do it at least as well as the foreign maid or the high-priced nurse or kindergarten? In short, are there not multitudes of families in moderate circumstances who would gladly avail themselves of the services of such women but for mistaken notions of what is really needed?

MORTALITY DUE TO LIGHTNING

IN a special report of the United States Weather Bureau, Willis L. Moore sets forth extremely interesting statistics concerning mortality due to lightning.

The statistics of 1900 show that during that year 713 persons were killed or fatally injured by lightning. Of these 291 were killed in the open, 214 in buildings and 57 under trees. No information was obtained as to the circumstances of the deaths of the remaining 151.

Most of those who perished while under trees would have been alive today had they not sought such shelter. Not only are trees dangerous refuges, but it is said to be almost equally dangerous to huddle under machinery or grand stands, especially in the vicinity of a flagpole.

The average number of lives lost by lightning in this country so far as recorded is nearly 800 a year.

The most remarkable fatality recorded was that of the death of eleven persons from one discharge while sheltering in a zinc lined shanty beneath a river pier in Chicago.

According to the statistics the greatest mortality by lightning occurs in the Ohio valley and the Middle Atlantic States. Particular attention is called to the necessity of precautions against lightning stroke in the mountainous States of Colorado, Montana and Wyoming.

It is the opinion of Mr. Moore that a more complete system of experiments should be made by the Government, so that additional security may be extended to life and property.

Some advance has been made in this direction by the study of the modern alternating machine and the transformer device, which afford a better opportunity for comparative study of the lightning flash than the ordinary frictional machine. The difference between the potential of a lightning discharge of a mile in length and any phenomenon that could be produced in a laboratory is so vast, however, that it is almost impossible to furnish any figure of comparison.

The most interesting part of the report treats of the relative danger of certain situations during a thunderstorm. By

studying these one may learn to avoid the more dangerous exposures.

Off-peated warnings as to the danger of standing beneath trees receive additional comments on the danger. Other places especially dangerous are the doorways of barns in proximity to cattle, the vicinity of chimneys and fireplaces or the terminal of a wire clothes-line.

One important declaration made by the report is that the majority of supposedly fatal cases of shock are not in reality so. The appearance of death is due to a temporary paralysis of the respiratory system and the action of the heart. Prompt and intelligent treatment by a physician will generally result in recovery.

This treatment should extend over at least an hour, the important point being borne in mind to preserve the warmth of the body by all methods, such as by applications of the hot water bottle or cloths, hot fannels or warm salt bags.

KING AND SCHOOLBOY AGREED.

An interesting story is told of King Edward VII in the "People's Friend." It is to the effect that his majesty, while staying as a guest at a certain country mansion, visited the village school unexpectedly and began to ask the children a few questions. "Now, my young friends," said King Edward cheerfully, "I dare say some of you can tell me the names of a few of our greatest kings and queens, eh?" With one accord they cried out, "King Alfred and Queen Victoria, sir." Just then a tiny slip of a boy, to whom the schoolmaster had whispered something, stood up and raised his hand. "Do you know another, my boy?" asked the King. "Yes, your majesty—King Edward VII." His majesty laughed, and again asked, "What great act has King Edward VII done, pray?" The boy lowered his head and stammered out, "I don't know, your majesty!" Don't be distressed, my lad," said the King, smiling; "I don't know either."—Philadelphia Record.

Remembers the Maine. Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.—President Palma remembers the Maine.

ARIZONA'S RIGHT TO BE ADMITTED TO STATEHOOD

By Hon. N. O. MURPHY, Governor of Arizona.

I HAVE been in the Territory of Arizona for the past twenty years, the greater part of which I have spent in public life, and I can say unqualifiedly, and without the least hesitation that Arizona today should be admitted to Statehood. As a matter of fact, the Territory has not only more money, but more people than twenty-two of the States had at the last census prior to their admission to Statehood.

I was both secretary and governor of the Territory under President Harrison, and was reappointed governor by President McKinley. I am therefore familiar with both the conditions and the people, and it is indeed most gratifying to me to know that at the present time the Territory is more prosperous than it ever was before and the public credit was never so strong.

As a Delegate to the Fifty-fourth Congress I had a bill asking for Statehood for the Territory of Arizona reported in both houses, but no final action was taken by either the upper or the lower house. The people of Arizona today are practically a unit for Statehood, and both the population and the wealth entitle the matter to consideration. An omnibus Statehood bill in which are included the interests of the Territory of Arizona has been passed by the House of Representatives, and is now in the hands of the Senate Committee on Territories, and it should be reported out of the committee and passed at the present session.

There are, however, perhaps two good reasons why immediate action cannot be taken: First—The Senate is at present tied up with the business pertaining to the passage of the Philippine civil government bill, the Cuban reciprocity bill and the isthmian canal bill.

Second—the political aspirations and possible affiliations of the people of the Territory of Arizona after admission to Statehood, may act as a drawback. Suffice it is for me to say that there is a large majority in the Senate today than there has been for twenty years, and in the event of the majority granting Statehood to the Territory of Arizona, the people will naturally feel very kindly toward the Administration.

The fact that it is made a political issue should not be, and the fact that the admission to Statehood of any Territory might increase the minority should have no weight. I shall do everything in my power to have the present Congress accord the Territory of Arizona justice, for that is what I call it.

AN IMPOSSIBLE MENU

AT the Teachers' College in New York some inspired person has been lecturing on the possibility of feeding a family of six persons at a total cost of 60 cents per day. That this is possible no one will deny, for there are thousands of people in this country who do manage to subsist on some such sum, because that is all the money they have to spend on food, but that a menu like the one quoted here could be furnished on any 10 cents a day is certainly impossible. This is the bill of fare:

Breakfast: Cereal and milk; creamed codfish on toast; coffee.

Luncheon: Baked beans; baking powder biscuit with molasses; cabbage salad.

Dinner: Beef root; rice; carrots; spaghetti with cheese; plum pudding without eggs; syrup sauce.

The family is supposed to consist of a laboring man, two boys, a hard-working woman, a woman whose tasks are light, and an aged woman. Any housewife who reads this article is at liberty to experiment with the menu and see if

she can furnish it at 10 cents a day per individual.

Possibly one secret of the astonishing success of the theorists' experiment lies in the fact that they probably did not allow as large an amount of food for the family as the average family of that size would eat. A laboring man and two boys are likely to eat a good deal if they can get it, and this kind of menu is not the kind which will satisfy them. The only possibility of feeding a family on 10 cents a day for each person lies in a certain sameness of diet. An Italian will get up a savory stew or a dish of macaroni for an incredibly small sum, and eat only that one dish, with possibly a little fruit and some sort of drink; a Chinaman will make his meal of rice, and the ante-bellum negro often lived off practically nothing but bacon and corn-meat. But the variety of food here described cannot be provided for any 10 cents a day, in such quantities as will satisfy the hearty appetites of those engaged in manual labor. Such experiments tend to create the impression that the poor are poor because they are improvident, not because they have not enough money to be comfortable.

PETER GILLIGAN.

The old priest, Peter Gilligan, Was weary night and day, For half his flock were in their beds Or under green sods lay.

Once while he nodded on a chair At the moth-hour of eve, Another poor man sent for him And he began to grieve.

"I have no rest, nor joy, nor peace, For people die and die!" And after, cried he, "God forgive! My body spake, not I!"

And then half-lying on the chair, He knelt, prayed, fell asleep; And the moth-hour went from the fields, And stars began to peep.

Upon the time of sparrow chirp, When the moths came once more, The old priest, Peter Gilligan, Stood upright on the floor.

"Mavrone, mavrone! the man has died While I slept on the chair!" He roused his horse out of its sleep And rode with little care.

He rode now as he never rode, By rocky lane and fen; The sick man's wife opened the door, "Father! you come again!"

"And is the poor man dead?" he cried. "He died an hour ago." The old priest, Peter Gilligan, In grief, swayed to and fro.

"When you were gone he turned and died As merry as a bird." The old priest, Peter Gilligan, He knelt him at that word.

"He who hath made the night of stars For souls who tire and bleed, Sent one of his great angels down To help me in my need."

"He who is wrapped in purple robes, With planets in his care, Had pity on the least of things, Asleep upon a chair."

DEFORMITY AND GENIUS.

Recently a Paris psychologist announced that he had conclusively proved that malformation of the brain produces intellectual brilliancy. The theory is that deformity, disease or accident causes the abnormal development of some one part of the brain, and the result is genius. In support of this several cases are mentioned.

It is pointed out that Milton wrote his "Paradise Lost" while he was blind, and it is said that the blindness confined his mind to a certain scope in a manner that made it possible for him to evolve the great epic.

Cases of a somewhat different nature, says "Answers," are shown in the elegant writings of Thomas de Quincy and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, both of whom had brains in which the excessive use of opium had made havoc. De Quincy describes his horrible experience with opium taken in the form of laudanum in his "Confessions of an English Opium Eater."

Byron's club foot is seriously advanced as the cause of his lyric power, and the point is made that Sir Walter Scott's most brilliant work was dictated from a sick bed. Mozart and Wagner both had deformed brains, said to have been due to disease and bumps while they were children.

MACE OF THE LORD MAYOR

GRAT interest was shown by the judges of the court of claims in their inspection of the silver scepter, or mace, which is to be carried by the lord mayor, subject to the King's approval, at the coronation of Edward VII. This emblem of the lord mayor's authority was borne in the coronation of George IV, since which the lord mayor has taken no part in the procession. The staff, about eighteen inches long, is composed of crystal, cut and channelled, with alternate bands of gold, in which the channeling is continued. These channels in the crystal are filled with thin files of gold, and the gold divisions are decorated at intervals with eight strings of large seed pearls. The coronet is composed of four crosses and four fleurs-de-lis, and decorated with three rubies and three sapphires, besides six very large seed pearls and other pearls arranged in groups. There is no record of the time when this curious relic was originally made, but in its present shape it has been assigned to the early part of the fifteenth century.

WEDDINGS IN BRITAIN.

Woman is held in great honor in this part of the French Republic, and marriages have a solemnity that they possess in few other places. It is difficult to trace the history of the custom that gives the tailor such high rank at the wedding as the Britons accord him. He is the marshal for the groom, and if he be gifted in the art of making rhyme he may be asked to participate in the comedy of formally wooing the bride by reciting stilted verses in her presence. He wears a red rose on his right leg and a purple one on the left when he makes his journey, while from the end of his wand are suspended two little embroidered hearts.

When the nuptials are celebrated bread and wine are blessed and exchanged with the groom by the bride's parents. The wedding follows immediately, and the bride baroness her house preparatory to receiving the groom. The lover arrives, accompanied by bagpipers, who play in front of the house while the mock parley continues. He makes formal demand for his wife, and her relatives bring forward her grandmother or some other aged person. Meantime the smell of the viands which are being prepared for the feast floats on the air. Of course the aged woman is politely set aside. Perhaps a babe may be the next response to his importunity. He must not lose his temper or insult the one who presents the infant, but with rather exaggerated praise he returns the child. A widow and a married woman are perhaps the next to be offered, and it is not until he has refused them all that the bride is brought out, dressed and ready for the ceremony.—Woman's Home Companion.

SHAM CHAMPAGNE.

American apples are cored, sliced, and dried, sent to France, and there converted into cider, says the "London Family Doctor." With the addition of carbonic acid gas and yeast and a little flavoring powder, the cider becomes champagne, and much of it comes to England and is drunk under the delusion that it is of the best brand.

PANAMA ROUTE SHOULD BE SELECTED FOR ISTHMIAN CANAL

By Senator Alfred B. Kittredge of South Dakota.

I AM sanguine that isthmian canal legislation will be enacted at the present session of Congress, and that the Panama route will be the one selected.

In the first place, President McKinley appointed an Isthmian Canal Commission which has unanimously reported in favor of the Panama route, and given their testimony before the Senate committee in favor of the Panama route. The members of this commission were appointed by President McKinley because they were experts and, to my mind, laymen, as all Congressmen are in this case, should not set their opinion over that of experts.

Confessedly it will cost \$1,300,000 less annually to maintain and operate the Panama than the Nicaraguan route, which is the equivalent at first cost to \$65,000,000.

Again, the Panama route is but forty-nine miles in length as compared to 183 miles, the length of the Nicaraguan route. Besides there are less curves in the Panama route, and a less number of locks would be required. Further, it will take but eleven hours to go through the Panama route, as against thirty-three by way of the Nicaraguan route, and that means thirty-three hours by daylight, for only small craft will be able to pass through the canal during the night.

Again, the Panama route has better harbors. As a matter of fact, there are no harbors in the Nicaraguan route, and where they must be made, it will be costly to construct and maintain them.

Along the Nicaraguan route there are volcanoes within striking distance, and if for no other reason than that of flying in the face of Providence, if we do not take warning from the recent Martinique disaster, the Panama route is preferable to the Nicaraguan.

WHAT WOMEN LIKE IN MEN

LADY COLIN CAMPBELL has been giving to the world her impressions on the subject of "What Women Like in Men." It is rather a new idea. Advice and admonition usually come from the other side. The average man is so firmly convinced that he has had a special revelation from heaven on the subject of woman's duties, privileges, and limitations, that in season and out of season, he endeavors to "warn and command" the refractory sex that occasionally insists upon its right to think for itself.

The clever Englishwoman, who has had unlimited opportunity to make a study of her subject, declares: "I do not think that there can be any doubt that what women like most in men is courtesy, and, if a counsel of perfection may be offered, good temper."

"If we were to analyze these two virtues, they would be found, I think, to have their root in that very quality of

strength in one form or another which women admire so much. Courtesy, the perfect control of one's feelings under all circumstances, the serene remembrance of one's surroundings and their exigencies, is a distinct manifestation of the quality of strength and give that quiet sense of superiority which is at the root of chivalrous protection. Good temper, too, is strength in its way, for though it may occasionally be allied with apparent weakness of character, it certainly serves as strength to its fortunate and invulnerable possessor. Good temper, however, is a gift of the gods, and is one of their rarest graces to humanity; and though self-control will largely help to take its place, it has not the same attraction as a sunny temper. Self-control, however, can be learned, and so can courtesy be studied, and every man who desires to find favor in the eyes of woman will find courtesy his best friend."

FINANCE IN KOREA

LI HSI, the Emperor of Korea, is the twenty-eighth sovereign of his dynasty—a dynasty that usurped the throne of Korea some 300 years ago, say a writer in "Harper's Magazine."

The Emperor scarcely ever stirs out of his palace. He is supposed to make a royal progress through Seoul once each year, but does not always do so. This progress is gorgeous, with all the tawdry display of orientalism tinged with occidental ideas wrongly understood. The most magnificent thing about the display is the bill which is presented to the treasury to defray expenses. Some times this amounts to as much as 750,000 yen (\$350,000) for the one day's entertainment—a vast amount when the purchasing power of a yen is considered. Few or no details are given, and when they are they often partake of the nature of a farce. Such is the item of champagne for foreign representatives, which figured once at 70,000 yen (\$35,000). Of course, most of these vast sums are misappropriated, and the Emperor has his share. He also has another source of revenue which is very profitable. This is the sale of patents for coining money to private individuals. The right to coin 5-sen (2½ cents) nickel pieces is

the usual one granted. The purchaser pays down 5,000 yen (\$1,000), and he receives the privilege of coining nickels, for which privilege he pays additionally 4,000 yen (\$2,000) monthly. This, in itself, is good business for the Emperor, but he has improved upon it, and by a system of stopping all patents periodically he obtains frequent repayments of the initial premium. It is said, also, that the Emperor has recently ordered 2,000,000 5-sen pieces in the United States. Of these, the actual cost will be 1 cent (2 sen) each, leaving him with a profit of some \$30,000. Mention must also be made of the sale of concessions to foreigners. These frequently cost the concessionaires more than they are worth, but this is not always so, as may be seen by the following instance, which was told to us in Seoul:

A British official having died in Korea, the court was given to understand, heaven alone knows why, that some compensation should be awarded the widow. She, therefore, was given the post of governess to the crown prince, with an official salary. It is said that during the three years of her governesship she never saw the crown prince as a pupil; nevertheless, her engagement for another term of three years has been arranged for.

Government Ownership of Inventions

A PROPOSITION at present before Congress provides that all inventions of army or navy officers or men aiming at improvement in arms, defenses or other apparatus used in warfare, shall, if valuable, become the property of the Government, compensation to be paid the inventor on a basis arranged by the Court of Claims, says the "American Inventor."

At first sight an infringement of personal liberty and open to many objections as it is, the idea is attractive, and if made a law might prove a blessing in disguise. For instance, Captain Smith invents a gun carriage which is new, inexpensive, possesses valuable features and aids accuracy in shooting. As matters are at present the chances are that Smith resigns, to reap a fortune by public notice as the head of a company to exploit the invention and sell it not only to the United States Government, but to any foreign government which will buy it. The inventor thus cheapens the value of his invention, because a new engine of war losses value to one country in exact proportion as it is possessed by another. At the same time Smith doubtless gets a fair competence out of his invention, but at the expense of having been unpatriotic and losing his commission.

According to the proposed law, Smith's invention would become the property of this Government exclusively, and his compensation would be adjusted by the Court of Claims according to the rating of a commercial commission, which would attempt to say what the commercial value of the device would have been had it been marketed in the ordinary way. Smith would thus lose nothing, would retain his position as an officer

in the service, and would reap immediately the benefits of his idea without going to the trouble and expense of forming a company and interesting capital in his invention. So far the proposed law seems entirely advantageous to Smith.

The objections, however, are as easily seen as the benefits. The Court of Claims and the commercial commission would probably be continually criticised by the Smiths for having assessed and granted a much lower compensation for the invention than, according to the inventor, it was worth. Moreover, many would regard such a law as an infringement of personal rights and would claim that they had as much right to invent and manufacture an article, of use to the Government or not, as any citizen not in the governmental service.

A law which would cover the above-mentioned points, and which from a greatest-good-to-the-greatest-number standpoint would seem to be justifiable, would provide the appointment of a patent commission to look over all patents granted and to compel the inventor, whether in the army or not, to give the Government the option of right of purchase of his invention at rates fixed by the commercial commission and the Court of Claims, provided it was of such a character as to be of great value or service in perfecting the defenses and military power of the country. This law also would seem to be an infringement of personal liberty, but so, in a way, are all laws, and as the Government is one of, for and by the people, the people as a whole would be benefited by the law more than the individual would suffer. Such a plan would also obviate the discrimination between the citizen and the sailor or soldier.